

Conference Human Freedom and Dignity: Innovative Humanities

Origen's values of human dignity and freedom in theological and philosophical traditions: the results displayed

The History of Human Dignity and Freedom in Western Civilization, research collaboration between universities and non-academic organizations across Europe, funded by the European Union's H2020 research and innovation program, presents the results of the study conducted with the aim to trace the roots and transformations of Origen's values of human dignity and freedom in theological and philosophical traditions. The results will be presented during the conference 'Human Freedom and dignity: Innovative Humanities'.

In modern western societies, the ideal human being has the right to choose and express his own beliefs and convictions and to be treated as an autonomous and dignified individual. But such ideas are not shared by all – and never were. The long history of the values of human freedom and dignity has been formed through a continuous battle between two theological and philosophical traditions going back to Origen of Alexandria (c. 185-254) and Augustine of Hippo (354-430). Origen saw humans as free, valuable, and dignified beings, while Augustine saw them as predestined, sinful, and bound to servitude. This battle between the negative and positive views on humanity continued in various contexts from antiquity to modern times.

For the last four years, the large international research network has engaged 14 PhD fellows to investigate the philosophical and theological traditions behind the modern Western conception of humans as free, valuable, and dignified beings, and how these traditions developed chronologically and geographically. The network focused on the reception and assimilation of the theological ideas expounded by the church father Origen from the 3rd century Alexandria. The History of Human Dignity and Freedom in Western Civilization research has produced invaluable knowledge on the subject from a historical viewpoint, but their results can also provide an interesting perspective on how ancient philosophical and religious tenets still shape principles of moral and human conduct in our modern society.

The results will be shared on its final conference that will take place in Pécs, Hungary from October 30 to November 3, 2019.

Information on the **The History of Human Freedom and Dignity in Western Civilization**

The ITN "The History of Human Freedom and Dignity in Western Civilization" is a research collaboration between universities and non-academic partner organizations across Europe. The project has the aim to trace the historical roots and transformations of the modern conception of humans as dignified and free beings, especially as met with in theological and philosophical traditions.

More information and details of the program are available on the project's website www.itn-humanfreedom.eu.